

the expedition against the French fortress of Louisbourg of Cape Breton Island. At the outbreak of the Revolutionary War in April 1775, he was commissioned chief engineer and Colonel of Artillery and was wounded in the battle of Bunker Hill. He married Hannah Deming and had nine children. He served with General George Washington throughout the Revolutionary War. In 1798 General Gridley died in Staughton, Massachusetts at the age of 87.

Today the chapter is extremely involved in the community. It is active in veterans' services, ROTC programs, and scholarship programs with our local high schools. The chapter also presented the City of Glendale with the Department of Defense's 50th Anniversary of the Korean War flag. This flag currently flies over the Glendale War Memorial at City Hall.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in congratulating the General Gridley Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution on 90 exemplary years of service to the City of Glendale and surrounding communities.

#### A HERO LEAVES BEHIND A LAST- ING LEGACY—GOD'S LOVE: RE- MARKS ON BEHALF OF ROBERT HODGES

**HON. WALTER B. JONES**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, November 21, 2003*

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last Monday was a sad day for Eastern North Carolinians and America as a whole. On November 10, 2003, North Carolina lost her oldest living Veteran, Robert Hodges. When Mr. Hodges passed away, he was 115.

I had the privilege of meeting Mr. Hodges at an event in his hometown just a few years ago. Even in the brief interaction I shared with this living legend, I was struck by his sharp mind and vitality. I can still remember Mr. Hodges singing "Over There" so beautifully . . . he was so lucid, his voice so clear, you would never have believed he was celebrating his 114th birthday.

Born June 18, 1888, Mr. Hodges was not only North Carolina's oldest living veteran, he was one of America's longest living war heroes as well.

Mr. Hodges had a phenomenal story. He was born in North Carolina's first official town, Bath. The grandson of slaves, Mr. Hodges shared a three-room house with his parents and 9 siblings.

He worked the fields in rural Eastern North Carolina until 1918. At the age of 20, Mr. Hodges enlisted in the Army and went on to serve in France during World War I.

After World War I, Hodges returned to North Carolina and married Malinda. The couple enjoyed 70 years together until her death at the age of 92.

Mr. Hodges and his wife raised 7 children on their farm in Pamlico County, where Mr. Hodges worked until his poor eyesight forced him into retirement. The Hodges family still calls the Pamlico area home, with his surviving children living in Stonewall and New Bern.

He was honored in 2002 with North Carolina's Order of the Longleaf Pine, the state's highest civilian order.

While Mr. Hodges most certainly leaves behind an amazing personal and military history, I must say that in my opinion, the most significant legacy this hero left behind is a pure and stalwart love of Jesus Christ. Last year Mr. Hodges was quoted as saying, "What I figure on is anything you can do for the Lord is all right."

Despite all his honors and all the attention he had showered on him through the years, Mr. Hodges always kept his heart in check. He knew that in the end, he would take nothing with him when he left this world.

More important than all the military medals and awards was the love of Jesus.

I believe wholeheartedly that the secret of Mr. Hodges long life was love of family and love of the Lord.

That is why I'm confident that when Mr. Hodges closed his eyes to this world, he opened them in Heaven. And that, Mr. Speaker, is a reward well earned by Mr. Hodges' life lived by faith. From battlefield to his front porch, Mr. Hodges did it all for the glory of the Lord.

I stand today in remembrance of this military hero and godly man. May God bless his soul, and the family he left behind.

#### SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST LAND EXCHANGE ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 18, 2003*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased the House is considering H.R. 1651—The Sierra National Forest Land Exchange Act of 2003 on suspension today. I thank my colleagues, Mr. NUNES and Mr. DOOLEY, in addition to Resources Committee Chairman POMBO, for their support and assistance on this measure.

H.R. 1651 completes a land exchange between the Forest Service and a constituent of mine, Mr. Bob Glassman. Under the exchange, the Forest Service will obtain an 80 acre parcel within the Sierra National Forest from my constituent, who will in turn receive a 160 acre parcel located on Shaver Lake and also within the Sierra National Forest.

Upon completion of the land exchange with the Forest Service, my bill states that my constituent will convey the newly acquired 160 parcel on Shaver Lake to the Sequoia Council of the Boy Scouts. The Boy Scouts have operated a recreational camp on a portion of this land for over five decades. Thousands of Scouts use the camp each year to experience outdoor activities and gain leadership skills. Owning the property will allow the Sequoia Council of the Boy Scouts to make improvements to the facilities located on the land. This bill, therefore, allows the Scouts to provide continued opportunities for young men to learn the importance of and actively participate in serving their community.

Given that there is a hydroelectric facility at Shaver Lake, I have worked with the operator of that facility, Southern California Edison, to ensure it can maintain and operate its hydro project once the land exchange is completed. As a strong supporter of hydroelectric power, I am pleased to say that under my legisla-

tion—this hydro facility can continue to operate unencumbered.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1651 is a non-controversial piece of legislation that will benefit the lives of Boy Scouts for years to come. As such, I encourage my colleagues to support its passage.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2754, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOP- MENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT 2004

SPEECH OF

**HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 18, 2003*

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the Chairman of the Energy and Water Subcommittee, Mr. Hobson and the ranking member, Mr. Visclosky for their good work on this bill. This conference report deserves the overwhelming support it is about to receive.

I do want to bring attention to one provision in this bill that has not received the scrutiny it deserves. Section 115 is an affront to our nation's environmental laws. It was not included in either the House or Senate bills and was added in conference. The provision waives all environmental laws and directs the construction of a road from the village of King Cove, Alaska through the sensitive Izembek National Wildlife Refuge and right to the boundary of the fragile and internationally significant Izembek Wilderness Area.

Specifically, Section 115 directs the Corps of Engineers to build a road proposed in one Alternative from a draft Environmental Impact Statement prepared to evaluate several modes of transportation between the villages of King Cove and Cold Bay, Alaska. The Environmental Protection Agency has raised significant concerns with the alternative mandated by Section 115. The Corps of Engineers is still reviewing public comment on the draft EIS.

The King Cove Access Project first surfaced as legislation in 1998. Proponents attempted to add the provision to an appropriations bill that year but were not successful. A compromise was reached later that year with the King Cove Health and Safety Act which was included as Section 353 of Public Law 105-277, the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. The measure appropriated \$40 million to address the access needs of the communities of King Cove and Cold Bay; however, the Act did not approve a road through the Izembek refuge or the Izembek Wilderness. In fact, the legislation specifically required that expenditure of the funds allocated in the bill "must be in accordance with all other applicable laws."

Five years after a satisfactory compromise was agreed upon, this rider inappropriately short-circuits the public process. An administrative decision on a project to enhance marine-road access for the community of King Cove is proceeding in a timely manner and does not require intervention by Congress. However, the King Cove Access Project mandates one alternative in the EIS, thereby effectively ignoring the advice of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, other federal agencies and the American public.

Section 115 is an affront not only to public process, but also to our nation's environmental